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Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Tamar **Tchitanava** (Georgia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 57 (see A/62/422, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 26th and 31st meetings, on 13 November and 5 December 2007. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/62/SR.26 and 31).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/62/L.29 and A/C.2/62/L.46

2. At the 26th meeting, on 13 November, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation" (A/C.2/62/L.29), which read:

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in three parts, under the symbol A/62/422 and Add.1 and 2.

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"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 58/201 of 23 December 2003, 60/208 of 22 December 2005 and 61/212 of 20 December 2006,

"*Recalling also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Recalling further* the Asunción Platform for the Doha Development Round, and the Ulaanbaatar Declaration adopted at the Meeting of Trade Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Ulaanbaatar on 28 and 29 August 2007,

"*Recalling* resolution 63/5 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific of 23 May 2007,

"*Recalling also* the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2007 of the Economic and Social Council, adopted on 10 July 2007,

"*Recognizing* that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks continue to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affect their overall growth and socio-economic development,

"*Recognizing also* that cooperation between transit countries and landlocked developing countries results in better transit transport systems,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of preparations for the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action;

"2. *Also takes note* of the outcome documents of the Thematic Meeting on Transit Transport Infrastructure Development, held in Ouagadougou from 18 to 20 June 2007, and of the Thematic Meeting on International Trade and Trade Facilitation, held in Ulaanbaatar on 30 and 31 August 2007;

"3. *Reaffirms* the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit countries by all means of transport, in accordance with the applicable rules of international law;

"4. *Also reaffirms* that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries in no way infringe their legitimate interests;

"5. *Urges* donor countries and multilateral and regional financial and development institutions, in particular the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with appropriate technical and financial assistance in the form of grants or concessionary loans for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, in particular for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes and improved

communications, to promote subregional, regional and interregional projects and programmes, and to also provide technical assistance, on a priority basis, in trade facilitation;

"6. *Emphasizes* that the development of transit transport facilities and services should be integrated into the overall economic development strategies of the landlocked and transit developing countries and that donor countries should consequently take into account the requirements for the long-term restructuring of the economies of the landlocked developing countries;

"7. *Also emphasizes* that South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation with the involvement of donors should be strengthened, as well as cooperation among subregional and regional organizations;

"8. *Decides* to hold two days of high-level plenary meetings devoted to the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly in New York on 2 and 3 October 2008, to be chaired by the President of the Assembly, with the finalization of the organizational details of the midterm review meeting to be carried out in consultation with the President of the Assembly;

"9. *Stresses* that the midterm review should provide the international community with an opportunity to make the assessment of the progress made, lessons learned and constraints encountered in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and agree on what needs to be done to further galvanize global partnerships to assist landlocked developing countries in ensuring their effective participation in international trade and the world economy;

"10. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to convene consultations during the sixty-second session of the Assembly to facilitate the preparation of a final outcome document for the midterm review;

"11. *Requests* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in close consultation with the relevant United Nations system organizations, to prepare a draft outline of the outcome document of the midterm review so as to facilitate the intergovernmental consultations, taking into account:

"(a) The outcome of the Thematic Meeting on Transit Transport Infrastructure Development;

"(b) The outcome of the Thematic Meeting on International Trade and Trade Facilitation;

"(c) The outcomes of the regional review meetings;

"(d) The reports of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

"12. *Requests* the Office of the High Representative, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/227 of

24 December 2001 and in the Almaty Programme of Action, to coordinate the preparatory process and also requests that United Nations system organizations, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme and the regional commissions, and relevant international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, provide necessary support and substantive inputs to the review process; and, in this regard, takes note of the organizational framework for the midterm review prepared by the Office of the High Representative in cooperation with the main stakeholders;

"13. *Calls upon* donor countries and the international financial and development institutions to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General to support the activities related to the follow-up to the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

"14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report on the progress made, lessons learned and constraints encountered in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and to include recommendations for the way forward;

"15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled 'Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation'."

3. At its 31st meeting, on 5 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation" (A/C.2/62/L.46), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Tamar Tchitanava (Georgia), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.29.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Japan, in his capacity as facilitator, orally corrected the draft resolution.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.46, as orally corrected (see para. 8).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.46, draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.29 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/201 of 23 December 2003, 60/208 of 22 December 2005 and 61/212 of 20 December 2006,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2]

Recalling further the Asunción Platform for the Doha Development Round,[3]

Taking note of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration adopted at the Meeting of Trade Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Ulaanbaatar on 28 and 29 August 2007,[4]

Recalling resolution 63/5 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific of 23 May 2007,[5]

Recalling also the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2007 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, adopted on 10 July 2007,[6]

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks continue to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affect their overall growth and socio-economic development,

Recognizing also that cooperation between transit countries and landlocked developing countries results in better transit transport systems,

Expressing support to those landlocked developing countries that are emerging from conflict, with a view to enabling them to rehabilitate and reconstruct, as appropriate, political, social and economic infrastructure and assisting them in

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See resolution 60/1.

[3] A/60/308, annex.

[4] A/C.2/62/9, annex.

[5] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 19* (E/2007/39), chap. IV, sect. A.

[6] See A/62/3, chap. III, sect. C, para. 90. The entire report of the Economic and Social Council for 2007 will be issued in final form as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/62/3/Rev.1).

achieving their development priorities, in accordance with the goals and targets of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[7]

Recalling the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[8] an initiative for accelerating regional economic cooperation and development, as many landlocked and transit developing countries are located in Africa,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of preparations for the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action;[9]

2. *Also takes note* of the outcome documents of the Thematic Meeting on Transit Transport Infrastructure Development, held in Ouagadougou from 18 to 20 June 2007,[10] and of the Thematic Meeting on International Trade and Trade Facilitation, held in Ulaanbaatar on 30 and 31 August 2007;[11]

3. *Reaffirms* the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit countries by all means of transport, in accordance with the applicable rules of international law;

4. *Also reaffirms* that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries in no way infringe their legitimate interests;

5. *Encourages* donors and multilateral and regional financial and development institutions, in particular the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with appropriate technical and financial assistance in the form of grants or concessionary loans for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation of Landlocked and Developing Countries[7] in particular for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes and improved communications, to promote subregional, regional and interregional projects and programmes, and to also provide technical assistance in trade facilitation;

6. *Emphasizes* that the development and improvement of transit transport facilities and services should be integrated into the overall economic development strategies of the landlocked and transit developing countries and that donor countries should consequently take into account the requirements for the long-term restructuring of the economies of the landlocked developing countries;

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[7] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.

[8] See resolution 57/2.

[9] A/62/226.

[10] See A/62/256 and Corr.1, annexes I and II.

[11] See A/C.2/62/4, annexes I and II.

7. *Recalls* that landlocked and transit developing countries have the primary responsibility for implementing the Almaty Programme of Action, as envisaged in its paragraphs 38 and 38 bis;

8. *Emphasizes* that South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation with the involvement of donors should be strengthened, as well as cooperation among subregional and regional organizations;

9. *Decides* to hold, from within existing resources, two days of high-level plenary meetings devoted to the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly in New York, on 2 and 3 October 2008, to be chaired by the President of the Assembly;

10. *Stresses* that the midterm review should provide the international community with an opportunity to make the assessment of the progress made, lessons learned and constraints encountered in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and agree on what needs to be done to further galvanize global partnerships to assist landlocked developing countries in strengthening their effective participation in international trade and the world economy;

11. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to convene consultations during the sixty-second session of the Assembly to facilitate the preparation of an outcome for the midterm review and to finalize its organizational aspects, if necessary;

12. *Requests* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in close consultation with the relevant United Nations system organizations, to prepare a draft outline of the outcome document of the midterm review so as to facilitate the intergovernmental consultations, taking into account the outcomes of the thematic meetings, the regional meetings and the reports of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

13. *Also requests* the Office of the High Representative, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001 and in the Almaty Programme of Action, to coordinate the preparatory process, further requests that United Nations system organizations, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme and the regional commissions, and relevant international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, provide necessary support and substantive inputs to the review process, and in this regard takes note of the organizational framework for the midterm review prepared by the Office of the High Representative in cooperation with the main stakeholders;

14. *Encourages* donors and the international financial and development institutions as well as private entities to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General to support the activities related to the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the Almaty International Ministerial Conference;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report on the progress made, lessons learned and constraints encountered in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, including

recommendations, with a view to the preparation for the midterm review meeting and the way forward;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation".